

Fairbanks, Alaska

December 7, 1941

Dr. Everett B. King,
156 Fifth Ave.,
New York, N.Y.

My dear Dr. King:

I know you were duly informed immediately after the congregational meeting of the local Church at which time action was taken to assume full self support and I know how well pleased you were at our taking the step.

You also will be interested to know that we have in cash and pledges, in excess of \$700.00 toward the additional outlay necessary and, in view of having taken the necessary steps and having met the full salary of our pastor, the Rev. R. Rolland Armstrong, during the past two months, and feeling that we shall be able to continue to do so, we feel that it is in order to request that you forward the \$900.00 you undertook to send toward the retirement of the building fund indebtedness. We should very much like to wipe out that indebtedness before the close of the current Church year, at least, and will greatly appreciate hearing from you!

We in Fairbanks, in common with the remainder of our country, were shocked to hear of the Japanese attacks on Manila and Pearl Harbor this morning, and to realize that we now are, of course, actually at war! It is but a matter of days or hours, perhaps, before a state of war also will exist between us and the other Axis powers. I had hoped we could continue to "get by" short of war for a time at least!

I just missed you down the coast this fall, having gone outside again in mid-September and returning a month later. Met the Rev. Mr. Randall and family on the ship and look forward to meeting him again in February when he comes to attend Presbytery here at that time.

With kindest regards and sincere wishes for a blessed Christmas and New Year, in which my family join, I am

Sincerely yours,
E. A. Tonseth
E. A. Tonseth
Clerk of the Session.

December 15, 1941

AIRMAIL

Mr. E. A. Tonseth
Fairbanks, Alaska

Dear Mr. Tonseth:

I was greatly interested in receiving your letter of December 7th in which you stated that you had in cash and in pledges in excess of \$700. According to the agreement I promised to match dollar for dollar the amount of money that was raised by the Fairbanks Church. Your request, therefore, for the \$900. would not seem to be in keeping with this agreement. If and when you have raised in cash and pledges the \$900. I shall be very glad to have the check issued and sent to you.

I trust that this will not greatly inconvenience you. I feel that it will be better for us to stay close to the agreement. I am delighted with the way the Fairbanks Church is developing and you may be sure that the Board of National Missions deeply appreciates such work.

Cordially yours,

EBK:McE

First Presbyterian Church

R. ROLLAND ARMSTRONG, MINISTER

"I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH" - Mt. 17:18

MANSE: 703 CUSHMAN STREET

"HE IS BUILDING OUR CHURCH."



Seventh and Cushman Streets, Fairbanks, Alaska

January 15, 1942

Dr. Everett B. King
156 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York

Dear Dr. King:

I had your last letter right here on my desk so I would be sure to answer it pronto, but now I can't find the letter! Figured I better drop you line before leaving for Presbytery or You would not be hearing from me for another month.

The people seem to think that everything is going very well up here as far as the church is concerned, but I think there is room for a great deal of improvement. The morning service has fallen off from 100-110 to 55-65. Evening service holds up around 40. Sunday School fluctuates from 40 to 75. Young People from 15-25. Junior C. E. 5-15. Sunday Evening Social for the young people 12-20. I thought interior Alaskans liked the cold weather but they really do not. Ofcourse 50 below is pretty stiff weather but even 30 below keeps them away from church.

Copy wanted亟待

I have had 15 weddings, 14 funerals since my arrival. Have received 10 new members into the church. Also started a roll of Affiliated Members for servicemen. Based it on the Book of Common Worship which states: "The following persons while retaining their membership in other churches have been welcomed as affiliated members. Four soldiers were received on this basis last Sunday and given a Certificate marked "Affiliated Member". In the morning bulletin we asked if there was a member of the Church who would like to make a gift of a Communion Table in memory of a loved one. That night a sergeant who had become an affiliated member in the morning asked if a couple of affiliated members could give the Communion Table just as a gift. He amazed me and I told him so. But he said he and his pal who is also a sergeant, wished to make the gift. The gift will cost about \$50.00. I think that is pretty good, don't you? I think it will make the church members sit up and take notice. One of the boys is president of the Young People's Society and the other is on a Committee and often leads the discussion. We certainly have a fine group of boys coming here regularly. C. E. is at 6:30. Church at 7:30 followed by a lunch and fellowship hour. We have a social once a month. One of the boys is assistant superintendent of the Sunday School and a Sunday School teacher. Three boys and a Captain are members of the regular choir. Four or five of the boys have my copy of "Alaska Under Arms". I think it is a splendid account of things as they are today.

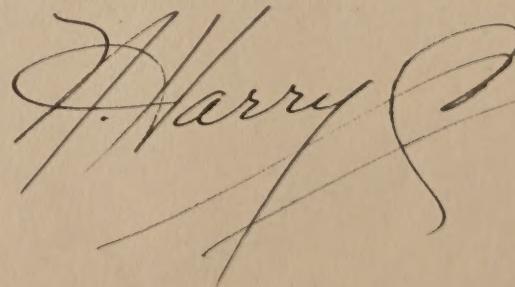
My sermon for Sunday Morning is on the text: "Men ought always to pray and not to faint". After translating the Greek (with some effort) on the title page of "A Diary of Private Prayer", I got an inspiration for a sermon. I enjoy the volume very much--thank you again. Unless it falls through, Mr. Bingle is arranging for a Negro Soldier Quartette to do some singing for us Sunday night.

The material which has come in my care for the various outposts has been sent on its way, but it seems to me it is very expensive to take the stuff in by air. Three packages for the North Coast cost me 6.78. The fourth one which arrived a week later, I managed to send on for only 50¢ after giving the office girl at Wein's a sales talk. The last package for Fred cost 90¢. So far I am out \$81.18.

After considerable difficulty in keeping warm in the Manse and making the furnace percolate as it should, we managed to have the Church purchase a coal stoker at \$400.00. It is now installed--thermostat controlled--and places the temperature just where you want it. One of the Elders and I, with a little extra help twice, shoveled three yards of dirt out of the basement through the coal chute, in order to lower the floor in preparation for the stoker. We hauled gravel from the River bank in 40 below weather, poured concrete for a foundation and half of the basement floor and boarded up the rest. I was working one evening alone on the floor putting down planks. I missed the nail with the hammer, hit the end of my left index finger and smashed. The bone was broken in two and splintered besides. This is the third week now and it is still in a splint. I have learned to type fairly well using three fingers on my left hand. I slip up now and then.

I understand that Randall got his appointment as a Chaplain. I am wondering whether I will be seeing him next week or whether he will be gone. I knew Boyd Cubbage in Seminary but never did get to see him up here. Have not seen Ranfall up here yet. If Jim Hall has any desire to come up here, sure would like to have him for a neighbor in Palmer. Understand his Dad is a Grand-pa. Got a letter from Reserve and they tell me they are without a pastor. They asked me how I would like to try them again. Have had no word on Judd's reception in Wrangell.

Sincerely,



Fairbanks, Alaska

July 17, 1942

Dr. Everett B. King,
156 Fifth Ave.,
New York, N.Y.

My dear Dr. King:

Mr. Armstrong announced to the Session recently that Mr. Cubbage had resigned his pastorate at Anchorage and had accepted a call in Ohio, I believe. He further stated that it was your desire that he, Mr. Armstrong, take over the Anchorage Church, effective by September 1, 1942.

This was quite a shock to us!

When asked if any consideration had been given to the local church, Mr. Armstrong stated that you had recommended a Rev. Harry Champlain, now at Wrangell.

Now, in the first place, we of the Session - and, I am sure, the entire congregation - would regret exceedingly to lose the Armstrongs, if it must be! They came here at a time when there had been considerable agitation among a large portion of the congregation and in various groups in the Church for several years for a change in pastors, and Mr. Armstrong stepped in, succeeded in securing cooperation generally and was successful in putting through a program for very extensive improvements in the physical property of the church - concrete floors in the basement, class rooms, flush toilets, and a stoker for the furnace, as well as a complete re-wiring of the Manse and wiring of the basement to fit the new set-up there, being among the major items. With the exception of the stoker, which is being paid for by monthly installments, all of the new work has been fully paid for.

Attendance at all services improved and, in consequence, the financial situation showed a substantial increase as a natural result. We early assumed an additional \$200 per annum toward his salary, relieving the Board by that much, and last October we voted to assume full self support, involving a very substantial increase in our budget. At the congregational meeting held in April, 1942, we increased Mr. Armstrong's salary from \$1800. to \$2000. per year, and we have met our obligations to date.

Mr. Armstrong is willing to go to Anchorage if you request it; as he put it, if you asked him to go to St. Lawrence Island, he would go there! On the other hand, he does not appear particularly interested in leaving Fairbanks for Anchorage just to be making the move.

We, on the other hand, should regret very much to lose the Armstrongs. We feel, as perhaps you can understand, that Fairbanks is just as important as Anchorage so far as the work of the church is concerned, and that our program conceivably would suffer in making a change of pastors here at this time. Had the Armstrongs been here for, say, five years at least, and their program was running smoothly, a change might not disrupt the situation here, but, having been here but two years, we cannot but feel that it would be a mistake to make the change now.

There also is the matter of expense to be considered. Now that we are on self-support, it is our understanding that the expense, or at least a large portion of it, of calling a new minister must be borne by the local congregation. We have a minister whom we like. Anchorage is without a minister. Why should we be penalized the expense of bringing in a new minister when, normally, we should retain the one we have for from three years upwards, just so that Anchorage may secure a minister? Apart from the expense, as has been indicated, we are not anxious to give up our present minister.

Seriously, we should regret very much to lose the Armstrongs, but if it appears desirable or necessary, we shall bow to your wishes but we want it understood that we greatly prefer to retain them to continue the good work they have started.

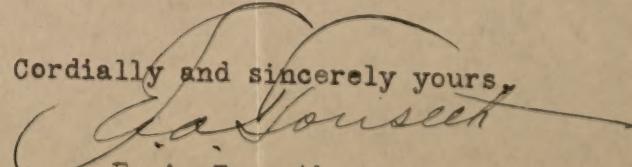
I was directed to write to you for something of the background of Rev. Champlain - his age, time in the Ministry, family, etc. Mr. Armstrong stated that you must be under the impression that the two men are acquainted, but he says they have never met.

Please give serious consideration to this matter and, if you can, let us retain the Armstrongs and send a new man to Anchorage instead of making it necessary for both churches to take on new men!

Will we be required to bear the expense of bringing Mr. Champlain to Fairbanks, if he is called, provided, of course, that a vacancy occurs here at the instance of the Board of National Missions?

With kindest personal regards, in which the other members of the Session join, I am

Cordially and sincerely yours,


E. A. Tonseth,
Clerk of the Session.

July 22, 1942

AIRMAIL

Mr. E. A. Tonseth
Fairbanks, Alaska

Dear Mr. Tonseth:

Your letter of July 17th to Dr. King has come during his absence on the field. We shall hold this for his attention immediately upon his return about the tenth of August.

I know that Dr. King will thoroughly appreciate your feelings regarding the change of pastor at Fairbanks and would want you to know that this recommendation of change was made with a thorough understanding of how sorry the Fairbanks church would be to lose Mr. Armstrong.

You will hear from Dr. King regarding his recommendations in the light of your letter just as soon as he returns to the office.

Cordially yours,

Secretary to Dr. King

McE

August 17, 1942

AIRMAIL

Mr. E. A. Tonseth
Fairbanks, Alaska

Dear Mr. Tonseth:

Returning from my vacation I found your letter of July 17th relative to the move of our good friend, Mr. Armstrong, to Anchorage. I can share with you the feeling that you have about this change. Armstrong has endeared himself in the hearts of the people in Fairbanks and it is going to be no small matter to see him move. However, if you wanted him to move from Fairbanks, I doubt very seriously whether I would need him in Anchorage. You can appreciate that, too.

In planning the transfer, I did not overlook the needs that you people have in Fairbanks and believe that Mr. Champlin who is now our missionary at Wrangell will fit into the picture at Fairbanks in a fine way. He is a young man with a family. I think there are two youngsters in the family. For three or four years he served as Sunday School Missionary in New Mexico. He has been in Wrangell for about two and a half years. When the Northern Lights Church of Juneau was vacant that church would have called him as pastor if we had encouraged them to do so. In giving up Armstrong I am sure that you will have no regret in taking over Rev. Mr. Champlin.

As to the moving expenses, the Board will want to be fair with the Fairbanks Church. I shall leave it up to you to reach the decision you think will be fair and just. The Fairbanks Church can assume whatever they are able and the Board will pay the difference.

I trust that you will accept the transfer in the fine Christian spirit that has always characterized the dealings that we have had with the church. You may be sure I have not forgotten your interest and that I shall be willing to stand by you all along the way.

Cordially yours,

First Presbyterian Church

R. ROLLAND ARMSTRONG, MINISTER

"I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH", Mt. 17:18

MANSE: 703 CUSHMAN STREET

"HE IS BUILDING OUR CHURCH"



Seventh and Cushman Streets, Fairbanks, Alaska - Box 182

September 26, 1942

Dr. Everett B. King,
156 Fifth Ave.,
New York, N. Y.

My dear Dr. King:

Twenty three days after beginning his journey from Wrangell on September 1, 1942, Rev. Champlin and his family drove into Fairbanks from Valdez, to which point he had shipped his car. You probably will hear of his trip direct from him.

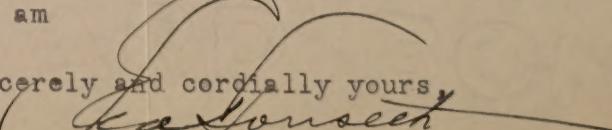
I met the Champlins soon after their arrival in town and was favorably impressed with the family. I feel sure they will fit in very well and that the work will carry on; this, of course, was your own idea or you would not have recommended Mr. Champlin to us.

Last evening the Session met with the new minister and, among other matters considered, was the item of the expense incurred in bringing the Champlins to Fairbanks. Because of disruption of service and crowded ships when they did come, Champlins were compelled to lay over two weeks in Juneau before they could secure passage for Valdez via Seward. Their fares and freight on their car, books, and household effects amounted to \$451.99.

Your letter to Mr. Champlin, advising that the expense of moving would be borne by the local church and the Board, the latter to pay the difference over and above what we could pay, confirmed what you had written to us earlier, and we surely appreciate this action of the Board. With a current balance of \$216.51, and feeling that we must pay Mr. Champlin's salary from September 1st, although we shall have his services for but one Sunday during the month, combined with a substantial loss of revenue due to the departure of some of our heaviest contributors, we are not in a position to do as much as we should like. After some discussion, we voted to assume \$101.99, leaving \$350.00 for the Board to provide, if it will. We do deeply appreciate the fact that the Board has been extremely generous with us on many occasions in the past, and we hope you will not think us ungrateful in now throwing the larger portion of this expense on the Board!

Looking forward to tomorrow's services and to the future with hopes for continued extension of the work here, I am

Sincerely and cordially yours,


E. A. Tonseth,
Clerk of the Session.

OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH AND ORGANIZATIONS

THE SESSION

Meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30

Einar Tonseth, Clerk	J. M. Pearl
Andrew Nerland	Hugh M. Henton
Fred B. Koschmann	Leslie E. Judd
N. Harry Champlin, Moderator	

THE TRUSTEES

Meets with Session first Tuesday each month

Mrs. J. A. Marsh	Paul G. Greimann
Martin Knuppe	Maurice T. Johnson
Ralph Hanlon	Roy Lund
Andrew Nerland, Chairman	

THE DEACONS

Meets the first Wednesday at 8:30

Mrs. Agnes Hering	Mrs. Anella Davis
Mrs. Lulu Fravel	Mrs. Lola Tilly
Mrs. Mary G. McLean	

BIBLE SCHOOL OFFICERS

Mrs. H. H. Mandigo, General Superintendent
Mr. Gilbert Carlson, Associate Superintendent
Mrs. H. B. Frickey, General Secretary & Treasurer
Mr. Alan Bryan, Assistant Secretary

THE LADIES AID

Business and Social Meeting--First Thursday

Circle Meetings--Third Thursday

BETHANY BIBLE CLASS--Business and Social Third Friday

COUNCIL OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION--First Monday

MR. & MRS. CLUB--Second Thursday

SUNDAY

9:45	Bible School
9:45	Bethany Bible Class
11:00	Morning Worship
11:00	Nursery Class
6:30	Intermediate C. E.
6:30	Senior C. E.
7:30	Evening Worship
8:30	Young People's Social

WEDNESDAY

7:30 Mid-Week Service

THURSDAY

7:30 Choir Rehearsal

CHURCH TREASURER

Einar Tonseth, Box 182

I can do all things in him that strengtheneth me.--Philippians 4:13



First Presbyterian Church

Seventh and Cushman

FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

"The Community Church With A Christian Program"

N. Harry Champlin, Minister

Mrs. Chester Moyer, Choir Director

Fred B. Koschmann, Pianist

God shall supply every need of yours
according to his riches in glory in Christ
Jesus. Philippians 4:19

COMMUNION SUNDAY JANUARY 10, 1943

DIVINE WORSHIP AT ELEVEN O'CLOCK

A N N O U N C E M E N T S

THE SERMON SUBJECT for this evening is: "Eternity In The Heart". Come and bring a friend.

"YOUTH AND OTHER RACES" is the Intermediate C. E. subject for discussion tonight with Gray Wangelin as the leader for the Evening.

THE TWELFTH CHAPTER OF THE GOSPEL OF MARK will be the basis of Study for the Mid-Week Prayer Service.

THE MR. AND MRS. CLUB Pot Luck Dinner this Thursday will be enlarged to include the whole congregation of this church. Guests of Honor will be all the New Members since September. Mr. S. N. Jurist, Russian Interpreter, will speak on the subject: "The People Of Russia Before the Revolution and Since". The Dinner is at 6:30. Please inform Mrs. H. B. Frickey what you intend to bring.

THE BETHANY BIBLE CLASS will have its monthly Business and Social Meeting Friday at 8:00 P. M. in the home of Mrs. Charles L. Tribble, 926 4th.

THE BOARD OF DEACONS FUND will receive the loose offering at the Communion Service this morning.

PLEASE PUT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS ON THE TOKEN CARDS and place them on the Offering Plate at Communion.

A New Communion Table would enhance the furnishings of the Church. Is there any member of this Church who would like to make a gift of a Communion Table in Memory of a loved one? If so, please speak to one of the officers or the minister.

JULIAN VICTOR KOSCHMANN is the correct spelling of the name of our newest addition to the Cradle Roll

Funerals for George Robertson and Eugene Swanson will be conducted by the Minister today.

PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL HYMN "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" 266
(Congregation rise & join in second verse)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Minister: "The Lord hear thee in the day of trouble
People: "And strengthen thee out of Zion;
Minister: "Remember all thy offerings,
People: "And accept thy burnt sacrifice:
Minister: "Grant thee thy heart's desire,
People: "And fulfil all thy counsel.

INVOCATION THE LORD'S PRAYER GLORIA PATRI

RESPONSIVE READING Selection 10

HYMN "Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts" No. 354

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 22:7-23

PASTORAL PRAYER CHORAL RESPONSE

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

RECEPTION OF AFFILIATED MEMBERS

ANTHEM "God So Loved The World" Stainer

OFFERING with DOXOLOGY OFFERTORY

We give Thee but Thine own, What-e'er the
gift may be: All that we have is Thine
alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

SERMON - By the Pastor "Holy Memories"

INVITATION TO COMMUNION COMMUNION HYMN No. 216

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

HYMN "A Parting Hymn We Sing" No. 362

BENEDICTION CHORAL AMEN THE POSTLUDE

Jan 3, 1942

First Presbyterian Church

R. ROLL

1942. MINISTER

"I WILL

BUILD MY CHURCH" - Mt. 17:18



MANSE: 703 CUSHMAN STREET

"HE IS BUILDING OUR CHURCH."

Seventh and Cushman Streets, Fairbanks, Alaska

January 20, 1942.

-1942

Rev. Herman H. Morse
Board of National Missions
Presbyterian Church U.S.A.
166 Fifth Avenue
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Morse:

Thank you for your greetings to the congregation
of the First Presbyterian Church of Fairbanks Alaska in
behalf of the Board at the time of our assuming self-support.

We appreciate everything that has been done for
us in past years.

We would mention first of all the men who have been
chosen to serve in this Alaskan field. The record of the church
is based on the lives of its leaders. History has been made in
Fairbanks based on this roll-call of men: S. Hall Young, R. W.
Prant, James E. Condit, Rev. G. Bruce, Wallace Sutton Marple,
F. C. Schrar, James F. Vernon and John H. Yowle. Here are
pillars of faith adorned with sacrifice to their Master.

We thank you for the lives of these men.

Let us mention secondly, the buildings reared in
the heart of the northland. First there was a small frame
structure, finally an enlarged building constructed during the
ministry of John H. Yowle. These buildings have equipped us
to meet the task. We have the most modern and useable building
in Alaska. Thanks to the people of the Presbyterian Church.

We thank you for this place of worship.

We ask the entire church to uphold our hands in
these days of transition. Pray for the Alaska of tomorrow,
Pray that we might be equal to the task.

Most sincerely yours,

R. Holland Armstrong.

Perm file

Fairbanks, Alaska

10/3/47

On October 5th, the congregation unanimously adopted the proposal made by Dr. E. B. King to go on self-support. The congregation so strongly believed in the urgency of this proposal that they responded immediately.

This action closes the second chapter in the life of the Fairbanks Church and opens the third and great movement of its career. 1903 and 1904 saw the Board sending missionaries into the Tanana Valley to carry work into the camps. Fairbanks grew and the efforts of Dr. S. Hall Young became apparent in the organization and growth of a Presbyterian Church.

A church was built, later a second church ushered in the progressive movement of the Board and local people to meet the growing demands upon our community. The building stands as one of the finest pieces of practical church planning in the territory. It is designed to meet the growth of Fairbanks for years to come. The ministry between Young and Youel covered a period of pioneering years and through the period of church-Board efforts to keep this mission project moving developed a strong constituency.

Today the future awaits to test the faith of this young church. The young hearts and old are willing to take on full time self-support, knowing the sacrifices involved and the undertaking which lies ahead. It is with some feeling of regret that the church severs formal relations with the Board of National Missions, but the Board has fulfilled its design and has written the history of this project. To the Board and officers of the Boards who through years of planning have helped - we are thankful. To the church at large which has expressed itself and its prayers through monetary help - we are now ready to help you in serving.

"For we are labourers together with God."

FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

In Fairbanks there is a stable population which belongs to the town, and there is a transient group of those who make it their home a part of the season. The general opinion seems to be that Fairbanks numbers approximately 3,500; if the surrounding territory outside the immediate city limits should be considered the number would jump to a probably 5,000.

Fairbanks itself depends wholly on the placer and hard rock mining of the interior region. Dependent as the town is on this one operation the life of towns varied and its business multiple. Machine shops, rail road shops, garages, a utility and steam plant, merchants, government officials and operators and executives of huge mining operations reside in this once frontier community.

In addition to the University of Alaska and many educational clubs of letters and science are other cultural advantages in or near the community. The towns people are proud of their two theaters, the Daily News Miner, two banks, and fine hotels. KFAR the local radio station is owned and operated by the Midnight Sun Broadcasting Company. From this interior area this station is heard throughout the northern section of Alaska. Through this station goes classical and swing, news broadcasts, from Europe and Washington. Through this medium of the air lanes goes the "American School of the Air", quiz programs, and to our delight weekly church broadcasts. Every Sunday two of the local churches have fifteen minute programs. The churches rotate and carry the gospel message to the territory in their turn.

The United States Air Base, Ladd Field, has not presented any great problem to the town people. There program has been devised to care for a great number of boys. From every view point these boys are of a high type.

Under the United Protestant set-up in Alaska the Presbyterian Church has been allocated Fairbanks area. The Episcopal and Roman Catholic Churches hold a definite place in the community work. The Catholic Church operates St. Josephs Hospital. This is the only hospital center in interior Alaska except for a few small Episcopal centers. Beside these churches are: Nazarene, Bible Non-Sectarian, Christian Scientist, Latter Day Saints, Full Gospel, and Seven Day Adventist. Out of the possible 5,000 population 1,500 can be estimated as being touched by our churches. Fairbanks has not aligned itself closely on the basis of denominations. Many of the Methodists, Lutherans, Christians and Baptist come to the Presbyterian Church, but they cannot see uniting with the church.

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH property is strategically located in Fairbanks. It is in close relation to the business and residential section of town and is the half way mark by its location on the main artery through the city.

The main auditorium of the church is capable of seating approximately two hundred people. The architecture is conducive to worship despite its nondescript type of lines. The chancel has the reader and lectern with the choir divided. The design does not give us any altar but we have placed the communion table at the center aisle with the open Bible upon it. The windows are of stained glass and a large three arched window placed at the left side front of the building brings constant memory of Dr. S. Hall Young, founder of the original Fairbanks work.

In addition to the auditorium the church parlor and pastor's study flank the chancel. Beside the auditorium is Young Memorial Hall. The hall is the original church which was moved to the back of the church property. In addition to the hall is a modern kitchen. The kitchen is completely fitted with full service of everything for 100.

Page #2
FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

The basement of the church until about three years ago had been waste space. Under the direction and supervision of the newly formed Men's Club it was remodeled into a 20 or 55 Sunday school auditorium, seven class rooms, and a furnace room. All this work came through volunteer labor.

In connection with the church is a manse, which consists of kitchen, dining room, living room, bed rooms, and bathroom.

The First Presbyterian Church of Fairbanks became self-supporting as of October 1, 1941. They use as their slogan on their printed program "THE COMMUNITY CHURCH WITH A CHRISTIAN PROGRAM". The regular service includes the Bible School on Sunday A.M., Morning worship, Intermediate C.E., Senior C.E., Evening worship, Wednesday mid-week service, Ladies Aid each month, Choir rehearsal each Thursday. The Session, Trustees and Deacons have monthly meetings. In addition to the regular administrative work of the organized church the Session has created and set up the Council of Christian Education. They have set in motion a church wide program of National and Foreign Missions. All organizations in the church will drive all the material and suggestions through this Committee of the Council; another step was investigated by this group of leaders in the development of religion in the home.

It seems quite definite that the greatest growth for this church should be during the years ahead as Fairbanks is slowly becoming a town of homes. Young people are raising their families here with the view of using this community as their cradle. With the growth of homes our church should function as a family center. This will bring us into our full scope of usefulness.

Within recent years the Fairbanks finds itself in the position and in a community where there is a good opportunity to be of service to the men in uniform in an unofficial capacity. Many boys participate in their program when passes are available. They are making a worthwhile contribution. They are in the war zone and are the leading Protestant Church in the Community.

Unit of Work in Alaska
Board of National Missions

March 1944
PK

FEB 8 1945

Jackman
Fairbanks, Alaska

January 11, 1945

Mr. J. Earl Jackman,
Secretary,
Unit of Work in Alaska,
156 Fifth Ave.,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Jackman:

Early in December, 1944, your letter to Mr. Champlin regarding the matter of living quarters for Miss Gertrude Bechtel was read at the regular meeting of the Session and Trustees. Your letter indicated that it had been Miss Bechtel's understanding that a room for her would be included as part of her compensation to be furnished by the local Church. Actually, no consideration had been given, locally, to such a proposition for one reason because we had no room or house to offer.

The original proposal of Dr. Keeler was for an annual compensation for a Parish Worker at \$1,500. together with transportation to Fairbanks, to be paid by the Board. Our Board immediately said that \$1,500. was inadequate, that the salary should be not less than \$2,000. per annum, whereupon, as I recall, Dr. Keeler concurred with the understanding that the local Church provide the additional \$500. which we agreed to do.

We had undertaken the purchase of the so-called "Junes" property adjoining the Church property shortly before the matter of a parish worker was considered and Mr. Champlin had expressed the idea that it might be useful as a place where soldiers on leave might spend a few days from time to time and that eventually that it may be important to own the property if it became necessary to expand the existing property. Furthermore, we did not have sufficient space between the rear of the Church and the end of our lot in which to permit tradesmen and coal trucks to reach the rear of the Manse without crossing on the other lot. All things considered, we figured that we just about had to have the property for our own protection, inasmuch as the owner had determined to sell, and an unsympathetic purchaser could cause us a great deal of inconvenience and trouble.

We therefore purchased the property for \$6,000. cash, and borrowed \$5,750. of that amount from various officers of the Church. To convert the house into a "community" house or to make it available to the parish worker without expense would be most unfair to those who have put up the money until such time as the property

February 3, 1945

is fully paid for by the church. Of course, if we had excess funds in our treasury, we could take action, if we so desired, to assume the additional \$500 as an outright grant and apply that, monthly or quarterly, to the Trustee account instead of looking for it in the form of rent from the occupant or occupants of the building. As a matter of fact, the "boom" in Fairbanks is definitely past, with the completion of the numerous Government contracts involving the Alcan Highway, pipe and telephone lines, etc., and it makes a material difference in the amount of our collections. During this fiscal year we have spent a great deal of money on both the church and the manse over and above maintenance charges. As a matter of fact, it was not possible to close the calendar year 1944 without leaving some unpaid bills!

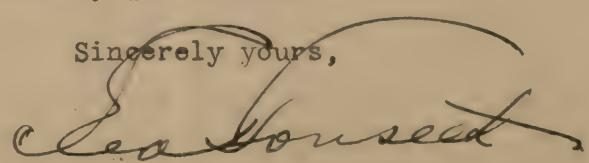
Now, as to the house, Miss Bechtel has not been paying the \$65.00 per month! She paid one third of that amount for the first two months, or \$21.66 per month, sharing the house with a young couple who paid the other two thirds. Since the middle of December, she has shared the house with two young ladies, each of whom has paid \$30. per month plus their share of operating expenses, leaving but \$5.00 per month to be paid by Miss Bechtel. Yesterday Miss Bechtel informed me that the other two were seeking rooms where they would not be required to devote so much of their time on house work, so she is looking for some couple to replace them. She hopes to find a couple - man and wife - so there will be a man to look after the furnace and a woman, preferably unemployed, to look after the house work, reserving a small bed room for herself.

I have tried to give you the picture of the situation here. We, Trustees and Session, feel that in assuming to pay \$500 per annum toward the salary of the parish worker we are stretching our ability to pay to the limit. Of course, in furnishing her transportation and paying \$1500 of her salary, the Board is doing a great deal more, but, we trust, that money comes from a special source from the country at large whereas our source of revenue is considerably smaller than it was a year ago and we are noticing it in our attendance at services and, consequently, in our collections.

I began this letter on January 11th and, somehow, was under the impression it had been sent. In the meantime, I understood from Miss Bechtel that you apparently were prepared to "take over", but I want you to have the benefit of our position in the premises, hence this letter.

Awaiting your reply I am, with every good wish,

Sincerely yours,


E. A. Tonseth,
Clerk of the Session and
Treasurer.

February 26, 1945

VIA AIRMAIL

Mr. E. A. Tonseth
Fairbanks, Alaska

My dear Mr. Tonseth:

Thank you for your very frank letter concerning the arrangements for Miss Bechtel which came to me during January when I was on a long trip. Your answer has been delayed because of my absence from the office.

We appreciate the fact that your Church has obligated itself for the purchase of the house at the rear and that you need some income from the house toward reducing the mortgage.

Our arrangements for Miss Bechtel apparently had too many people involved in it and there was a misunderstanding as to the Church providing her with a room during her time of service. We made the promise to her with the explanation that the Church would do this as the Church in Anchorage is doing, but later realized this was not provided for in the application which came through. Since it was not in the application you are not under any stated obligation to make this provision. Since we promised it to her we have agreed to fulfill our promise with her.

We do not have a clear report as to the situation there at present. If the first floor is being used as a center for the men in service or some part of the program of the Church we do not feel that Miss Bechtel should bear the responsibility for the rent of the entire house or even for one-third of the rent if she shares the upstairs with two other people. Nor do we feel that she should be obligated to get someone else to share the house with her in order to reduce her rent. Since we do not have a clear picture of the present situation any statement which we would make might have an element of further misunderstanding in it so we had better let the matter rest as it is. We feel sure that your officers will co-operate with her in every way possible in clearing any uncertainties. We have every confidence in you that arrangements will be made which will be satisfactory.

Since I am writing to you one other matter comes to my mind. It is possible that The Rev. Mr. Champlin may be elected to the General Assembly as a Commissioner this year. He has not had any time in the States since

Page #2
Mr. E. A. Tonseth

February 26, 1945

going to Alaska in 1940 and we are wondering under our general furlough provision whether we ought to make available to The Champlin's some time for the whole family in the States. Our Board has a furlough provision of four months for those who have served five years in the territory and who return for service. The Rev. Mr. Champlin's expenses would be paid to the Assembly and back. Would it be possible for the Church and the Board to share in the expense of Mrs. Champlin and the children to come down with him and have more than the time necessary to attend the Assembly? If the Church will cooperate with us on this we will be glad to share in the expenses to the extent of the period of time which The Rev. Mr. Champlin served in an aid receiving Church before going to Fairbanks. I hope to be at the meeting of Presbytery and will be glad to talk over this matter with your officers. Meanwhile will you pave the way by making this suggestion and seek the cooperation of the Church?

Again may I say we want to cooperate with the Church in every way possible. We commend highly your minister and your people in the great progress which has come to you recently. We feel the Fairbanks Church is rendering a great service to the community and the territory.

Cordially yours,

J. Earl Jackman, Secretary
Unit of Work in Alaska
JEJ:FK

For Irene Babbitt
Fairbanks

Side Trunk, Jr.

AUG 17 1945

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

One evening in the last week of August, we are calling a meeting to which a representative of each organization is invited to come. At this time plans will be made for Fall activities in the church. At this time, also, I would like to suggest the following changes in present activities and the establishment of the following new ones:

A. Division of the present Intermediate C. E.

1. Sending the older and eligible ones(if they wish) in the group up to Senior Young Peoples.
2. Forming a Junior Church of the younger ones.
3. Leaving the others(who are really of Intermediate age) to form a basis for the Intermediate C. E.

B. Formation of A Junior Church.

1. Boys and girls of grades 3,4,5,6 would be eligible.
2. Meeting on a weekday after school hours.
3. Organizing the group on the basis of the large church.
 - a. All interested becoming members on Confession of their Faith.
 - b. Election by the group of the regular officers of the church.
 - c. Organizing a Junior Choir of this group to sing regularly at this service.
 - d. Training in church procedure, manners, etc.
 - e. Training in leading a group by taking turns in preparing and presenting the lesson or Children's Sermon for the day(Using the Junior Society Kit)

C. Reorganizing the Social Program of the Senior Young People's Group.

1. Stressing one large activity for each month.
 - a. For instance.(September Activity)
Weekend of September 28-30 "Fall Round-Up" , a weekend of Fellowship of the Fairbanks Presbyterian Church young people and the Service men from Big Delta. One item in this program will be a banquet Saturday evening.
"Dime Carnival" sponsored by the Intermediate C. E. and the Senior Young People on Friday evening, September 14th. to raise money for the above event and their treasury. This is an evening of fun for both young and old.
 2. Having several minor events during the month which they can attend if interested.(Possible ones)
 - a. Athletic evening(once a month) at the High School Gym.
 - b. Participation in the Badminton Club meeting every Wednesday evening at the High School Gym.
 - c. Bowling every Saturday evening.
 - d. Attendance at an exceptional show(Keys of the Kingdom, etc.)
 - e. Birthday parties for those during the month.

We found, last Fall and Winter, that we had too much planned and it began to run into too much expense. So I'm suggesting this plan to the Council.

D. Division of the Sunday School Classes in the Upper Departments.

1. Taking the older ones from the boys and girls classes and making 2 new classes and labeling them"Senior Classes", the next oldest and forming the Intermediate Classes and leaving the younger ones to form the basis for the Junior Classes. They classes have needed division before but it had not been done. So I want to suggest that this be done the first Sunday in September.

E. Building up some of the smaller classes in the Sunday School by calling upon possible members, whose names were obtained through the Religious Census.

F. Beginning of a Teacher's Clinic to meet once a month, in the evening, to receive aid and suggestions on how to better their teaching.

G. Making the Opening Exercises of the Sunday School more attractive and stimulating to the youngsters and others who attend.

H. Establishing more fully, our Lending Library of the better books for youngsters and adults.

- F. Formation of a Primary Bible School(similar to the one we had last Spring) but revised to meet some of the needs we failed to meet previously.
 - 1. Simple but worshipful service(mrs. Champlin)
 - 2. Handwork period.
 - 3. Play period.
 - 4. Meeting once a week on Tuesday afternoons.
- G. Providing of more eateable things for the G. I. Lounger
 - a. Provision of cookies by one or two parties previously.
 - b. Suggesting one organization take charge of providing something ~~each~~ week for one month each year.
- H. Organizing of a dramatic Guild for the presentation of a play at the special religious times in the church(Christmas, Easter) and other ~~new~~ ones, at various intervals.
- I. Planning a definate system of the teacher s and myself calling upon the sick or poorly attending, children of the Sunday School.
- J. Doing more calling in the future of those not touched by the calling of the minister.
- K. Publishing of a Sunday School paper
 - 1. Reporters from each class
 - 2. Published once a month
 - 3. To contain items of interest to Sunday School-items not of enough interest to the general public to print in the "Northern Light".

Dearbuck *Ch. 6 file*

Box 2157
Fairbanks, Alaska
March 27, 1946

MAY 6 1946

Dear Friend;

The sun is shining in Fairbanks. The skies are clear and the nights bring a beautiful display of the northern lights. They stretch completely across the heavens in pastel hues and always in motion. There is still much snow on the ground but it is being reduced considerably every day. Sometimes we get peed at the sun in the middle of the summer when it won't get dark at night; but after a long and mostly dark, winter, old sol is really appreciated.

Already in Barrow they have light almost all around the clock; in another month it will be that way there. We wonder if the Klerkopers miss Barrow? But then, with triplet girls just two months old, their attention is pretty well centered. After a year at Ithaca, they were supposed to go to Iran, naturally we are curious to know if they will be leaving this summer.

Rev. and Mrs. Samuel Lee and son David arrived here from Horton, Kansas to take over the field in Barrow. They had an excellent demonstration in travel conditions in Alaska - they were with us a whole month before the plane finally took off for Barrow. But we had a lot of fun initiating them into some of the Alaskan ways and customs. We hunted snowshoe rabbits, tried out the skies and snowshoes and ate "Samburgers". The Fairbanks Winter Carnival gave them an opportunity to see some fine dogsleds in action as well as all the excitement of crowning the queen on an ice throne, a gala parade and a fine demonstration of skating by all the school children.

The Lees also had their first contacts with the Eskimos while they were here. We have about fifty adults and children who regularly attend church. A few come for the morning service and a few for the evening service, but most of them attend the afternoon service which is held just for them. The service is half in Eskimo and half in English - singing and praying in both languages and preaching with an interpreter. While the adults are having the sermon, the children assembly in the Sunday School room for a session of their own - under the direction of the minister's "help-meet." It was a good introduction to the work ahead of them which will be almost a hundred percent Eskimo. According to a visitor who has just returned from Barrow, "Rev. Lee had his congregation wreathed in smiles yesterday as church services when he appeared in mis-matched mukluks, all he has been able to procure thus far."

Here in Fairbanks a week ago Sunday, we dedicated a beautiful oil painting of Christ entitled "Come Unto Me." It was painted for us by the Klagstad Studios in Minneapolis. The painting is a gift of one of our church families in loving memory of their son and brother Lieutenant-Commander Walter Andrew Hering who became a member of this Church January 5, 1930. His mother is a charter member of the church. Walter was the only representative of the Navy on our Honor Roll. A Fairbanks boy, he graduated from Annapolis Naval Academy in 1938 and served in the Navy on various ships until he was killed in action on April 29th, 1945 by a suicide Japanese plane. The painting brings a new and reverent atmosphere to the church. The mother was presented with an appropriate, engraved memorial certificate which was furnished by the church headquarters.

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The work here with the soldiers has hit an all time low with all the fellows who spent so much time with us and took such an active part in our whole program having returned home for discharge. Some have gone back to school, some to their wives and old jobs, while some are just marking time and looking around. We are happy for all of them and for the fact that we were on hand when they came our way. May our paths cross again some day. In the meantime, hundreds of young boys are being sent to nearby Ladd Field air base as replacements. We are just beginning to become acquainted with some of them. Maybe in time, they will become identified in our various activities in the place of their predecessors, all of whom we miss a great deal.

Our "adopted daughter" Dolly enters the picture many times during a week - taking care of the children and running things in general at the Manse when we are both busy. We're fortunate to have her with us.

Sunday night we had a bit of a thrill. We looked up from the pulpit and there sitting in front of us was Betty and the three boys. Chip, Kenny and Jackie. Jackie was looking up with big round eyes, taking it all in. It was the first time for the three boys to be sitting in church together. Betty said that at first, all the singing bothered Jackie until he got hold of a song book and pretended to sing too. Chip is just about ready to join the church. Maybe he will on Easter. He is a member of the Junior C. E. which has been working on the Shorter Catechism the last few weeks under our direction.

Well, we enjoyed this visit with you. Maybe you won't mind too much that it is mimeographed; if not - may we expect a return call?

Faithfully yours,

Harry, Betty and the Boys.

Fairbanks Ct 27
Board of National Missions
of the Presbyterian Church in the
United States of America

156 Fifth Avenue, New York 10, N.Y.

September 27, 1946

VIA AIRMAIL

The Rev. Bert J. Bingle
c/o First Presbyterian Church
Fairbanks, Alaska

Dear Bert,

I must catch up on a number of things in your letters. First, we are glad you had such a good vacation and have arrived home safely. We received your accounting and have taken care of everything, except the \$3. difference in the advance which was made to you when you came out. \$410. was sent to you and you spent \$407. There was due us an item of \$3. on that. You made a full accounting and return of \$50. on the advance for the return so that you owe us a matter of \$3. which we will take out of your next check as the easiest way to take care of it.

You indicated that you had advance \$150. to Harry for his travel expense out. There is no indication in your letter where you got this amount. That is, your accounting on the advances which we gave you have come out even with the exception of the \$3. mentioned above. You have indicated it was from a travel allotment given you but we did not locate it. We will need a little more explanation from you.

We have had no word from Harry since he left Fairbanks and do not know where he is. We have tried to reach him by telephone at his brother's home but have not found him there yet. I am leaving in a day or two for a three week's trip and certainly hope we do not miss each other.

Dr. Keeler has referred your request for a loan of \$4,000. to the Restoration Fund office where it does not belong. We have discussed it here under the continuing War Service Unit and have tentatively agreed that we would ask for \$2000. as a grant loan to the Church on which there is no obligation to repay but they can repay

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The Rev. Bert J. Bingle

September 27, 1946

if they desire later. There would be no interest connected with it as long as the Church is a Presbyterian Church. In addition to that, we would ask for a regular loan of \$2000. at 3% interest. There is some complication on this because the Church building is owned by the local church and in order to mortgage it for this loan it requires an act of Presbytery.

*Re
Bank
loan.*

I am enclosing the application forms covering both of these items. One for a \$2000. grant on War Services Unit; one for a \$2000. regular loan from the Board with the appropriate form from the Presbytery. It will be necessary for the officers of the Church to act on the request for the grant from War Service Unit and also on the loan from the Board. It will be necessary to have Presbytery action on the application from the loan. Since your Presbytery does not meet until January, I would suggest that you state your approval, send it to Rolland Armstrong asking for his approval; and ask him to forward it to Vic Alfsen for his approval on the completion of the form as the Clerk of Presbytery. In light of the difficulties of the meeting of Presbytery and your transportation system, I believe this vote by mail would be accepted by the Board. It ought to be completed as soon as possible so that we can get it to the Building Aid Committee early in November. They will act on it and recommend it to the Board for action in the November meeting. Meanwhile, the application forms for the grant War Service should be completed by your officers and returned to me. We shall present them for action at the next meeting of the War Service Unit. As indicated in the telegram this will take some time but ought to make the money available by the end of November if everything is in form. Dr. Leeler is out of the office and I shall confer with him about this later.

In the wire to you, I said that there was no salary available for an assistant for you in your work. Earlier, I wrote to Miss Altman and told her that we had no other possible place of using her in the Territory now because all of the places for which we had funds were filled. The circumstances of her release at Anchorage are most unfortunate and we have the utmost sympathy for her. We gave her the choice of seeking other employment in the Territory or returning to the States. We sent her her check for September and Roland advanced to her the sum of \$400. for return transportation which she accepted. We offered to recommend her and help her get established in some work of similar character in the States. Her Mother feels she ought to return. Considering all circumstances, I think it would be wise for you not to be involved with her, although at the same time I have utmost sympathy for her.

UNIVERSITY SERVICES OF AMERICA
OF THE BRITISH CHURCH IN THE
DOUGLASS MISSIONS